



## Meeting Minutes

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
Thursday, June 8, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
JW Marriott Hotel, 1109 Brickell Avenue  
Miami, FL**

**ATTENDING:**

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Mike Collins, Chair                      Irela Bagué

**WRAC MEMBERS**

John Adornato	Cristina Casado-Acorn	Ed Wright
Al Calloway	Stephanie Desir-Jean	Judy Sanchez
Ray Smith	Kim Shugar	David Burr
Dennis Duke	Beverly Grady	Joan Davis
Tom Jones	Barbara Meidema	Joe Collins
James Harvey	Jim Reynolds	Rick Rodriguez-Piña
Patrick Hayes	James Humble	Ray Scott

**WRAC ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

Jaime Furgang	Dan Kimball	Rebecca Garvoille
Barbara Jean Powell	Doug Yoder	Jeff Schmidt
Samantha Withcraft	Patti Webster	Sara Fain

**1. Welcome and Introductions - Michael Collins, Chair.**

Read the statutory provision for changing the meeting agenda: Item #10 Water Supply Plan Update will move up to Item #3. Introduced new member Stephanie Desir-Jean, and new Alternate Members Rebecca Garvoille and Sara Fain.

**Member Issues**

Patrick Hayes: Need a presentation on how the District and DEP are looking at environmental resource permits.

Doug Yoder welcomed everyone to Miami.

John Adornato: Need an update on reservations and MFLs for Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park.

Mike Collins: There will be a report on MFLs next month

**2. 2006 Legislative Session Update – Ernie Barnett, Director, Legislation and Operations, SFWMD**

This session was very significant. One of the most significant issues was the purchase of Babcock Ranch. Another important issue was HB 1123 that creates a review commission to take a look at each agency of the state and ensure that the work conducted by the agency is still warranted. The South Florida Water Management District received over **\$221 Million** in state appropriations for the funding of a variety of projects. Some of the projects funded were: Save Our Everglades Trust Fund \$135 Million, (*Of this \$135 Million Biscayne Bay and C-111 projects receive \$25 Million, and Loxahatchee River additional water storage opportunities: \$10 Million*), Lake Okeechobee Restoration \$25 Million, Alternative Water Supply \$18 Million.

### 3. Water Supply Plans Update – John Mulliken, Director of Water Supply Planning, SFWMD

#### Questions and Answers:

The Collier County letter (June 1) to SFWMD was read by Ray Smith: The District needs to allow plans to include development of both alternative and conventional freshwater sources. The SFWMD will continue dialogue with Collier County. Collier County needs to incorporate alternative water supply sources because there is not enough water for the environment. There were concerns that the plan will force the utilities to develop only expensive water supplies and that this will create a burden to lower and middle income people. Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) has been working on a 10-year water facilities plan – will Florida DCA prohibit Local Government Comprehensive Plan amendments in the interim period? DCA will have to answer. WASA will work with SFWMD on water use demand projection numbers.

Chair Collins thanked John Mulliken for his work. The actual plan will be for discussion next month.

### 4. South Florida CERP Projects Update – Dewey Worth, Director, CERP Planning Division, SFWMD

#### Questions and Answers: Any actions or future presentations?

### 5. Acceler8 Update: C-111 Spreader Canal, Phase I, Basis of Design Report, Jorge Jaramillo, Project Manager, Acceler8, SFWMD

Barbara Jean Powell urged consideration of comments from WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop early on the project. The Loveland slough Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) is very important. Response: proposing approach other than STA because cost/benefits not there and transmissivities are very high in that area. Water would not stay long enough for effective treatment.

There were concerns with the draft C-111 Spreader Canal Basis of Design Report as set forth in June 6 letter from environmental groups to SFWMD.

Response: The intent is to make C-111 Spreader Canal Acceler8 project consistent with the CERP C-111 project. The Acceler8 project has a budget of \$40 million and the staff recommended alternative is \$41 million. Any additional features will require more funding. The need is to move forward with the things that can be done to improve conditions in Florida and Biscayne Bays.

C-111 Spreader Canal project will have positive environmental benefits for fish and wildlife and will improve water quality in Loveland Slough.

The draft BODR does not specify, and readers cannot determine, full extent of the project because the C-111 CERP Project Implementation Report is not completed.

Response: You can't sheetflow 1,900 cfs through existing system without causing downstream flooding. There is a need to ultimately plug/backfill the C-111 canal. We need assistance obtaining additional funding for the CERP project, (Biscayne Bay could use \$10 million in additional funding). SFWMD cannot do a project that would potentially increase flooding of private lands.

The C-111 project has gone from "analysis to paralysis" and we are getting nowhere fast. It is vital that the project get started, it needs a deadline for completion. The process is frustrating because each time a positive step is taken, objections are raised. We need to work together to move forward and the environmental community needs to see the whole plan.

Corps of Engineers indicated nothing in the C-111 Spreader Canal draft BODR is inconsistent with direction being taken in drafting the C-111 CERP Project Implementation Report.

The Everglades National Park Superintendent, Dan Kimball, stated that the project would have positive benefits to Taylor Slough. A surge area could be located in the Frog Pond but that would require \$20 million and we don't have that now. We need to move forward.

Irela Bagué: We are doing the best we can with what we have. The push is to find funding. Whenever we get closer to an answer, we get a letter requesting more study. We have been pushing and advocating a long time and it is frustrating because of the mistrust. Let's try to work together and move forward.

Lunch: 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

6. Modeling Update – Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Hydrologic and Environmental Systems Modeling Center, SFWMD

The development of the Regional Systems Model is going too slowly. For the restoration of the Everglades, we don't have a tool that is sustainable. We need a new model that when completed, it will be used to help evaluate CERP and Acceler8 projects.

Are modeling tools available to assess flow needs for restoration of river systems (e.g. Loxahatchee)? Response: It can be used to compare relative values and inform decision making about what restoration objectives should be. We need to be careful about expectations for use of modeling tools and we need to do a better job on accuracy. It cannot be used for everything, but it can look at comparisons using hydrologic data. It can also look at impacts on marshes, flood control, etc

Public Comments:

Byron Maharrey: We spent several months working with the WRAC on a recreation paper. We have come across a few "banana peels" that have kept us from recreating in STA2.

Basically the WRAC recreation paper dictates that we can recreate on any land that SFWMD owns. I don't see any reason why we can't recreate there.

Chair Collins: We did not walk away from the spirit. The staff is very adamant that during construction STA2 should not be used for recreation.

7. Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Update – Dennis Duke, Director, Everglades Restoration, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers

There were comments urging the County to help with a landfill, this will be very helpful with the cleanup of 8.5 Sq Mile.

8. Combined Structural and Operational Plan Update – Sean Sculley, Director Watershed Management Dept., SFWMD

There will be a full presentation at the July WRAC meeting. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be ready in July/August '06 timeframe.

9. Lake Okeechobee Committee Report – Bubba Wade, Chair, WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee

Rick Smith summarized the report; it was handed out and is posted on SFWMD/WRAC website.

10. Lake Okeechobee "WSE" Regulation Schedule Study – Peter Milam, Project Manager, Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers is reworking the schedule for the selection of a "Tentatively Selected Plan" (TSP), primarily based on concerns about integrity of the Hoover Dike and the need to reduce the "maximum release trigger" from 18.25' to 17.25'. Additional modeling will be done. The schedule is one month behind but Corps is committed to putting an interim schedule (2007-2010) in place by January 2007. The new EIS for 2010 schedule will begin in 2007.

Adjourn: 4:15 p.m.